

## Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of setting up a procedure of a communication taking place between two instances, with one instance being a protocol tester and the other instance being a device under test, comprising the steps executable on the protocol tester of:

- a) selecting the instances involved in the communication;
- b) selecting a protocol layer to be emulated on the basis of which the communication between the selected instances is to take place;
- c) selecting abstract communication interfaces of the protocol layer which are involved in the communication;
- d) selecting communication data contained in description files to be exchanged at the abstract communication interfaces;
- e) setting up a communication procedure executable between the instances through the protocol tester on the basis of the several selecting steps, with the selecting steps being performed graphically ~~with the selection of the communication data being made graphically and with the parameters so selectable being allocated description files which are used for setting up the communication procedure that is executable between the instances, with further with the communication data selecting step~~ including a graphic configuration of a communication sequence between the instances involved; and
- f) defining within the communication data graphically a message from one instance to the other instance which contains a variable wherein the other instance performs one of several activities as a function of the content of the variable.

Claim 2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of specifying a switch functionality which the other instance executes as a function of the content of the variable.

Claim 3. (Original) The method according to claims 1 or 2 further comprising the step of specifying a loop functionality which the other instance executes as a function of the content of the variable.

Claim 4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 wherein the loop functionality is selected from the group consisting of a for-next, a do-while and a while-do functionality.

Claim 5. (Original) The method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of specifying a functionality selected from the group consisting of a jump/go-to functionality and an if-then functionality which the other instance executes as a function of the content of the variable.

Claim 6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the instances involved in the communication are graphically selected, the protocol layer is graphically selected, and the abstract communication interfaces are graphically selected.

Claim 7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise SAPs (Service Access Points).

Claim 8. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the communication data comprise data selected from the group consisting of PDUs (Protocol Data Units) and ASPs (Abstract Service Primitives).

Claim 9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the communication data selecting step comprises the steps of:

- d1) graphically selecting a data format; and
- d2) graphically setting up the communication sequence between the instances involved.

Claim 10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein the communication sequence setting up step comprises the step of entering source code.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A protocol tester comprising:

a) means for selecting instances involved in a communication, with one of the instances being the protocol tester and the other being a device under test;

b) means for selecting a protocol layer to be emulated on the basis of which the communication between the selected instances is to take place;

c) means for selecting abstract communication interfaces of the protocol layer which are involved in the communication;

d) means for selecting communication data contained in description files to be exchanged between the abstract communication interfaces;

e) means for automatically setting up a communication procedure that is executable between the instances through the protocol tester on the basis of the selections by the several selecting means, ~~with the communications data which~~ selecting means ~~being a~~ are graphic selection means and with ~~the~~ parameters selectable by ~~them~~ the selecting means being ~~allocated description files which may be~~ used by the setting-up means for setting up the communication procedure that is executable between the instances which makes the setting-up of a communication sequence between the instances involved possible; and

means for defining within the communication data graphically a message from one instance to the other instance which contains a variable wherein the other instance performs one of several activities as a function of the content of the variable.